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PRE-APPEAL BRIEF REQUEST FOR REVIEW

Docket Number (Optional)

4023

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EFS-web addressed to "Mail Stop AF, Commissioner for
Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450" [37 CFR 1.8(a)]

on *July 6, 2007*

Signature *Andrew Babcock*

Typed or printed name Andrew Babcock

Application Number

10/709,364

Filed

0/29/2004

First Named Inventor

James Wlos

Art Unit

2833

Examiner

Leon, Edwin A

Applicant requests review of the final rejection in the above-identified application. No amendments are being filed with this request.

This request is being filed with a notice of appeal.

The review is requested for the reason(s) stated on the attached sheet(s).

Note: No more than five (5) pages may be provided.

I am the

☐ applicant/inventor.

☐ assignee of record of the entire interest.
See 37 CFR 3.71. Statement under 37 CFR 3.73(b) is enclosed.
(Form PTO/SB/96)

☒ attorney or agent of record.
Registration number 44517

☐ attorney or agent acting under 37 CFR 1.34.

Registration number if acting under 37 CFR 1.34 _____

Andrew Babcock

Signature

Andrew Babcock

Typed or printed name

(269) 465-6603

Telephone number

July 6, 2007

Date

NOTE: Signatures of all the inventors or assignees of record of the entire interest or their representative(s) are required.
Submit multiple forms if more than one signature is required, see below*.

☐ *Total of _____ forms are submitted.

This collection of information is required by 35 U.S.C. 132. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11, 1.14 and 41.6. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Mail Stop AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: James Wlos
Serial No.: 10/709,364
Filed: 4/29/2004
For: Push-on Connector Interface
Docket Number: 4023
Confirmation No.: 3363

Examiner: Leon, Edwin A
Art Unit: 2833

APPLICANT ARGUMENT FOR PRE-APPEAL BRIEF CONFERENCE

Mail Stop AF
Commissioner of Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

July 6, 2007

Background:

The present novel and nonobvious invention provides a simplified, reliable and cost efficient quick-connect connector interface for use with existing standard threaded connectors (spec. para. 29). Before the present invention, push-on connectors for low power applications, in general, applied outer spring fingers, such as those applied in typical Type F connectors, of suspect mechanical reliability and high frequency electrical performance (spec. para. 5). The present invention is the first recognition that the bore surface inner diameter of existing threaded outer diameter connector interfaces intended to engage the coupling nuts of, for example, Type N or SMA interfaces may be utilized according to the invention as a connection and retention surface to reinforce both the mechanical and electrical interconnection of an integral spring finger connector body push-on connection interface usable with these existing standardized threaded connector interfaces.

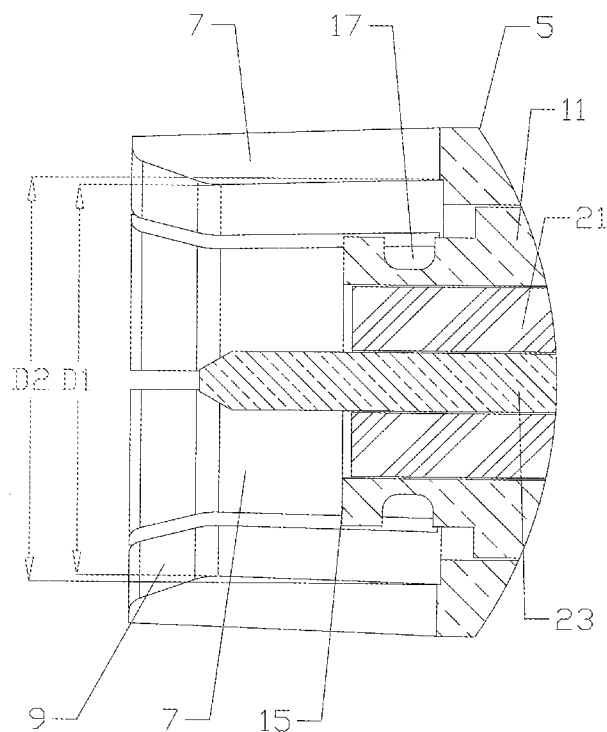
Cited Art:

US 6,267,612 "*Arcykiewicz*" discloses a connector assembly comprised of multiple discrete elements including a locking ring 22 (see Fig.1) from which spring fingers 24 project outward. The locking ring is retained upon the connector assembly by mounting upon a connector half 20 (sleeve) outer diameter that is screwed into the threaded section 10 of the adapter 27 (body) to clamp the locking ring 22 in place against the shoulder 12. The *Arcykiewicz* spring fingers 24 are outwardly projecting / biased. The outward bias is overcome for connector coupling via a longitudinally slidable coupling sleeve 21 with inner surfaces that force the spring fingers inward to engage the mating connector half 23. As the coupling sleeve slides towards the cable end, the spring fingers 24 outward bias moves the spring fingers outward, away from the mating connector half 23, releasing the retaining engagement (col. 4, Ln 48-52).

Argument:

The Examiner rejected claims 1-25 under 35 U.S.C 112 as non enabling in view of applicant's March 19, 2007 amendment that added the limitation "via an inward projection of the spring fingers" to independent claims 1 and 18 to more clearly differentiate the present invention with respect to the non-integral and outward biased spring fingers of *Arcykiewicz*. The Examiner states that this limitation is not shown in the specification or drawings and described it as "new matter", which was "given little patentable weight" – that is, ignored by the Examiner.

It is clear error for the Examiner to ignore the inward projection of the spring fingers appearing in each of figures 1-6, 9-11 and 15 as originally filed. As shown, for example on the following notated portion of original figure 3, each of the spring fingers 7 extends from the male body 5 at an inward angle from a first diameter D2 where the spring finger 7 first projects from the male body 5 to a smaller second diameter D1, at the inner tip of each spring finger 7.



Because D1 is smaller than D2, it is indisputable that the figures as originally filed support the limitation that the spring fingers are biased, *via an inward projection of the spring fingers*. Therefore, it is clear error for the Examiner to 1) reject claims 1-25 under 35 U.S.C. 112 as non-enabling, and 2) refuse to consider each and every limitation of the claims as amended.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-4, 9-10, 12-19 and 22-24 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over *Arcykiewicz* in view of *Nelson*. The Examiner states that *Arcykiewicz* has each of the claimed elements except a first spring on an outer diameter of the sleeve, the single reason *Nelson* is referenced by the Examiner.

As shown in figures 1, 2 and 3 and described in paragraphs 28 and 29 of the specification, the spring fingers 7 are integral with a body 5, the spring fingers 7 biased to provide an interference fit over and against the outer diameter surface (the threads 3). The bias is provided via an inward projection of the spring fingers. *Arcykiewicz* does not have spring fingers biased for an interference fit as claimed. It is clear error for the Examiner to ignore these limitations.

Also, even without consideration of the *via an inward projection of the spring fingers* limitation, *Arcykiewicz* does not have spring fingers integral with the body as claimed. The spring fingers of *Arcykiewicz* extend from a locking ring 22, not the body (coupler half 20 or adapter 27). The locking ring 22 (see Fig. 1) is a spring metal stamped ring separate and distinct element from the body, having none of the structural attributes of a "body" as understood by an artisan in the electrical connector arts (col. 4; ln 25-27). In the Final Rejection dated 4/6/2007, the Examiner stated that he has "defined the body as being the combination of 20 and 22. Therefore, since spring fingers (24) are integral with part 22 of the body ..". The Examiner's combination of distinctly separate elements to meet the "integral" claim limitation is clear error.

Because the spring fingers of *Arcykiewicz* are not biased via an inward projection to provide an interference fit upon the outer diameter surface, and or alternatively because the spring fingers of *Arcykiewicz* are not integral with the body, each and every element of the invention fails to be disclosed, suggested or taught in the cited references. Therefore, the rejection of claims 1-4, 9-10, 12-19 and 22-24 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) is clear Examiner error.

The Examiner rejected claims 5-8 and 20-21 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over *Arcykiewicz* in view of *Nelson* and *Plummer*. *Plummer* is provided to show a first spring finger ring. The Examiner rejected claims 11 and 25 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over *Arcykiewicz* in view of *Nelson* and *Maury*. *Maury* is provided to show an SMA or Type N connector with a second groove. As described in detail herein above, because the spring fingers of *Arcykiewicz* are not biased via an inward projection to provide an interference fit upon the outer diameter surface, and or alternatively because the spring fingers of *Arcykiewicz* are not integral with the body, each and every element of the invention fails to be disclosed, suggested or taught in the cited references. Therefore, rejection of claims 5-8, 11, 20-21 and 25 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) is clear Examiner error.

Respectfully submitted,



Andrew Babcock, Esq.
Attorney for Applicant
Registration Number 44517